

Dr. Kossler taught at numerous high schools in the Los Angeles area and also held positions at East Los Angeles College, the University of Southern California, Pepperdine University, and Long Beach City College before serving as Vice President of PCC in 1988. Since then, he has served as a member of the Chancellor's Task Force on the Community College Budget, the State Commission on Athletics, and the Community College League's Commission on Legislation and Finance. Along with his involvement in education, Dr. Kossler is also an active member in the Rotary Club of Pasadena, the Pasadena Senior Center, and the YWCA.

In October 1995, the Pasadena Area Community College District Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Kossler as the 10th President of PCC. Throughout his 12-year tenure as President, he advocated a vision that PCC would be a learning-centered institution that focused on improving the performance standards for students. Dr. Kossler aspired to increase the success of students in the completion of courses, number of degrees and certificates awarded, and the number of students transferring to 4-year institutions.

I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating Dr. James Kossler for his dedicated service and commitment to the promotion of education. I am sure that each person positively affected by Dr. Kossler's service will also join me in wishing him much joy in the years to come and thank him for his time, his energy, and his efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to state for the record that had I been present for the votes on H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act, and H. Res. 196, supporting the goals and ideals of World Water Day, I would have voted in the affirmative for both bills. I was unable to vote for H.R. 1677 and H. Res. 196 because I was in an important meeting with constituents from Minnesota.

CELEBRATING WYNDMOOR HOSE CO. NO. 1'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Wyndmoor Hose Company No. 1 in Springfield Township, PA on celebrating its 100th Anniversary. Since 1907, volunteer firefighters have contributed their time, expertise, and in some cases, lives, to aid members of the Springfield community and surrounding areas. I am honored to represent them in Congress.

In Philadelphia 271 years ago, Benjamin Franklin started the first fire department in America. Franklin's brigade, comprised entirely of volunteers, was dedicated to looking out for

their neighbors. Today volunteers constitute 73 percent of all firefighters nationwide, and Franklin's proud tradition of volunteerism is being continued by the brave men and women of Wyndmoor Hose Company just a few miles from where it began.

This fire company began as an in-house fire brigade for the Nelson Valve Company. Over the years it evolved from tin hats and push carts to a Company of highly trained and motivated individuals who have used their training in basic life support, firefighting, rescue, and hazardous materials containment to serve the public good everywhere from their own streets to Ground Zero in New York City after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

In the densely populated region of Southeastern, P A, the Wyndmoor Hose Company protects residential areas, commercial businesses, professional offices, and industrial plants, including the United States Department of Agricultural research facility, and most importantly the lives of the residents of Pennsylvania's 13th District. As part of these efforts, Wyndmoor has also established an excellent reputation for conducting educational programming to teach children and families the importance of fire safety.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the volunteers of the Wyndmoor Hose Company for their service, dedication, and sacrifice. I look forward to continuing our work together and ensuring another 100 years of success, safety and security.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association on the auspicious occasion of the 85th Anniversary of its founding. For nearly a century, AHEPA has been a leading organization of Greek-Americans, today representing 1.3 million individuals.

On July 26, 1922 AHEPA was formed by eight visionary Greek immigrants to unite their community against discrimination, denigration, and violence perpetrated by hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.

From its modest origins, AHEPA has grown into a bastion of philanthropy, education, humanitarianism, and family life. Its members are patriotic, civic-minded Americans enriched with a deep respect and admiration for the heritage and culture of their homeland, Greece, the cradle of democracy. Their members have served bravely in the armed forces, worked diligently in civilian life, and been elected to every level of American government.

Each year, AHEPA contributes more than two million dollars for scholarships, medical research grants, and other charitable causes. Since the 1940s, when its health centers first opened their doors, AHEPA has become a world-class benefactor of improved health care. From the Cooley's Anemia Foundation, which issues grants to medical researchers to

find a cure for the disease to the Bone Marrow Registry, established to help match those in need of marrow with compatible donors, Americans enjoy superior medical facilities and treatment thanks in part to AHEPA's assiduous efforts.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to the entire AHEPA family, including the Daughters of Penelope, the Sons of Pericles, the Maids of Athena, and AHEPA's chapters in Canada and Australia. May their next 85 years be as productive and inspiring as the last.

CONGRATULATING THE GIRLS SOCCER TEAM AT THE COLONY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the girls soccer team at The Colony High School on winning the class 4A Girls Soccer State Championship.

The Cougars of The Colony High School defeated Friendship High School by a score of 1-0 to win the class 4A Girls Soccer State Championship on Saturday, April 14, 2007. Junior midfielder Amanda Fancher scored the winning goal on a 22-yard free kick near the end of the first half. Amanda was also named the championship game's most valuable player.

The Colony finished the season with a record of 23-3-4, including shutouts in 11 of their final 12 games. The team has also beaten every soccer record ever set by the school.

I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to coach Nicole Jund, the team, the parents and all students of The Colony High School for their great achievement. I wish them success in the future, and I am very proud to have them in the 26th District of Texas.

THE PATENT REFORM ACT OF 2007

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce "The Patent Reform Act of 2007", a product of both bicameral and bipartisan effort to reform the patent system to meet the challenges of the 21st century. I would especially like to thank Senator LEAHY for his dedication to addressing many of the inadequacies in our current patent system. Furthermore, I appreciate my past and present partners in this area—especially Congressman RICK BOUCHER, with whom I've worked closely to increase patent quality for the past several years, and Congressman LAMAR SMITH, who championed this issue last Congress.

Introduction of this legislation follows a number of recent judicial opinions and many hearings conducted over the past several years by the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property which ascertained that the current patent system is flawed. Over the last 5 years, there have been numerous attempts to define the